

FAX**Date:** Monday, January 28, 2002**Pages including cover sheet:** 2

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NOTE:

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January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I'm writing to encourage you to accept the terms of the antitrust settlement recently reached between Microsoft and the United States Justice Department. Microsoft has agreed to terms that will result in a much more competitive software environment and that will allow Microsoft to move forward with its business of developing innovative software.

To put this lawsuit behind it, Microsoft has agreed to allow computer makers and software developers to set-up Windows within their computer systems they will sell on the market so that Microsoft products can be disabled and competitive non-Microsoft products can be enabled in their place. And to make this easier, Microsoft will show competitors the various interfaces that are internal to Windows. This will allow smaller, developing software companies to get their foot in the door and grow while fostering a competitive environment that will drive all parties to create better, more innovative software.

Further, Microsoft will not take any retaliatory action against any computer makers of software developers who choose to modify Windows, nor will Microsoft retaliate against any computer makers who ship operating systems that directly compete with Microsoft Windows.

Based on these facts, I encourage you to support the terms of the settlement so everyone can move forward with the business of developing good software for the American people. Thank you for all your hard work!

Sincerely,

Brittisha Boston